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TELEGRAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12065 N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: AFP: AFGHAN REBELS REPORT FIERCE FIGHTING WITH MILITARY

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN AFP REPORT ENTITLED "AFGHAN REBELS REPORT FIERCE FIGHTING WITH MILITARY".

QUOTE: PESHAWAR, NORTH-WEST PAKISTAN, 12 MARCH (AFP) -- THE PESHAWAR-BASED AFGHAN NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT SAID TODAY THAT FIERCE FIGHTING WAS RAGING IN SEVERAL AREAS OF AFGHANISTAN WHERE GOVERNMENT TROOPS WERE FACING A CRITICAL SITUATION IN THE WAKE OF THE FRONT'S CALL FOR A HOLY WAR.

A FRONT SPOKESMAN, CITING CLANDESTINELY-MONITORED GOVERNMENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS, SAID THE FIERCEST BATTLES WERE TAKING PLACE IN THE EASTERN KONAR AND PAKTAI PROVINCES AS WELL AS IN THE WESTERN HERAT PROVINCE.

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EARLIER TODAY THE FRONT, LED BY SIBJATULLAH MOJADEDI,

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SAID ITS FOLLOWERS IN AFGHANISTAN HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO ITS CALL FOR A HOLY WAR AGAINST THE PRO-SOVIET KABUL GOVERNMENT AND ADDED THAT REVOLUTION HAD STARTED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

MEANWHILE A SOURCE IN KABUL, REACHED BY TELEPHONE, SAID THE AFGHAN CAPITAL WAS CALM ALTHOUGH TENSION WAS HIGH, WITH INCIDENTS EXPECTED ON THE OCCASION OF THE AFGHAN NEW YEAR ON MARCH 21 AND BEFORE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE APRIL 27 REVOLUTION.

THE FRONT SPOKESMAN HERE SAID THE DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR OF KONAR, THE PROVINCIAL SECURITY CHIEF AND 19 SOLDIERS WERE KILLED NEAR THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF CHIGA SARAI.

FIERCE FIGHTING WAS REPORTED AROUND CHIGA SARAI, AND REBEL FORCES SAID THEY INTERCEPTED A 45-TRUCK COLUMN SENT TO BEEF UP GOVERNMENT TROOPS.

AGAIN CITING INTERCEPTED GOVERNMENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS, THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE REBEL MOSLEM GROUP SAID THE KABUL HIGH COMMAND HAD TURNED DOWN REQUESTS FOR REINFORCEMENTS OR AVIATION AID FROM MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN HERAT AND PAKTIA PROVINCES.

HE ALSO SPOKE OF CLASHES IN LAGHMAN PROVINCE, EAST OF KABUL, AND IN SEVERAL OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

AN INFORMED SOURCE IN ISLAMABAD CONFIRMED THAT A MAJOR REBEL DRIVE HAD BEEN UNDER WAY SINCE THE DECLARATION OF HOLY WAR EARLY THIS MORNING.

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YESTERDAY THE THREE MAIN PAKISTANI-BASED AFGHAN REBEL GROUPS PLEDGED TO WAGE A COLLECTIVE WAR AGAINST THE KABUL REGIME AND SAID THEIR OBJECTIVE WAS TO TURN AFGHANISTAN INTO AN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC.

THEY SAID THEY WOULD COORDINATE THEIR ACTIONS BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED COMMAND NEAR THE PAKISTANI-AFGHAN BORDER. UNQUOTE

2. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM ACTION ADDRESSEES. CHRISTOPHER

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